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Trade

Issue #55
June 28 - July 10

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly
Ecomedia
BULLETIN

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I don't like sexist talk!

Strikes, Work to Rule, Overtime Boycotts

Support Your Local Nurses

Nurses in British Columbia have finally gone on strike to better pay and conditions. The walk-out, which began June 14, has already spread to 69 of the province's 144 general hospitals, with another 11 hospitals hit by a work-to-rule campaign by their 1,290 nurses. Under BC legislation the nurses must maintain essential services.

The union wants \$20.78 an hour after 3 years for starting nurses and \$24.39 for senior nurses. The nurses have also refused overtime. Patients are generally supportive of the demands, but administration is far from agreeing to them, which could mean a long strike. The 25,000 member Hospital Employees Union, which includes cooks, cleaners, and other non-medical staff has also served strike notice at 19 hospitals.

In Quebec nurses have been carrying out an unofficial overtime boycott, which has been

ruled an illegal strike by the province's essential services council.

Will Ontario be next to see action by the province's health care workers? Beyond doubt the need is there. At a recent convention of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, it became clear that nurses are over-

whelmingly frustrated with their jobs. Because of insufficient funding, nurses don't "have time to care", according to Judith Ritchie, head of the association. "If something's not done we will not have enough nurses and we will have to close many, many, many more hospital beds." (Toronto Star 4/29/89)



Nurses are expected to answer the phone, do housework, move beds and deliver mail, things which are above and beyond their job training. They then lack the time to care for patients properly. That's why in this setting a work-to-rule campaign can be incredibly damaging, coupled with an overtime boycott. On-the-job direct action by nurses and other hospital staff could mean both better conditions for them and inevitably better health care for the rest of us. That's why if we care about the quality of the health care we and our friends receive then we should support efforts by nurses to turn around the declining system in this and any future actions.

*Extradition Appeal Denied***FREE LEONARD PELTIER**

OTTAWA — The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to re-open the extradition case for imprisoned American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier. Supporters in Canada were appealing his 1976 extradition from Canada on the basis that the FBI knowingly provided false evidence to the hearing in order to have Peltier extradited to the USA. Peltier is currently serving two life sentences in Leavenworth prison for the deaths of two FBI agents during a shootout on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

The appeal was one of the last legal avenues left for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, but the negative ruling won't stop them. People who support Leonard's struggle may ap-

peal to the United Nations human rights committee and may also sue the US government for using fraudulent evidence.

Peltier is a symbol for Native American peoples and their struggle for land and human rights. He was a leader in the American Indian Movement in the 1970's, a strong activist organization which challenged the US government's genocidal policies and fought for Native self-determination. The organization was targeted by the COINTELPRO program, the FBI's secret campaign to disrupt "subversive" organizations and assassinate their activists.

The shootout on Pine Ridge, initiated by two FBI agents for no apparent reason, happened at the same time as the US installed tribal chief was signing away large tracts of land to the government, prompting suspicions that the incident was meant to draw attention away from that fact. One Indian man and the two agents were killed. Peltier fled to Canada but was captured and extradited based on the testimony of Myrtle Poor Bear, which was later proven to be fraudulent. Two other men were tried in the US for the same incident and found not guilty on the basis of self-defense. Peltier was imprisoned and denied a second trial despite documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act which proved the FBI faked evidence at his trial. Peltier's continued imprisonment is an affront to justice and must be challenged until he is free once again. For more info contact: LPCDC, 43 Chandler Dr., Scarborough, Ont., M1G 1Z1. Tel: (416) 439-1893.

IN BRIEF**DRUGS AGAINST WAR**

Toronto radio stations have been running hardsell commercials for the property of people caught using drugs, which the state has stolen and is re-selling. Every time you call the bastards who are doing this it costs them them a buck. So call often (but don't buy.) The number is 1-800-468-5060.

ANARCHIST HOTLINE COOLS OFF

The anarchist hotline has been discontinued, at least temporarily, due to problems with the answering machine and aversion to subsidizing Ma Bell. To keep up with activities in the anarchist community, read this bulletin and listen to our two radio programs: Ecomedia Reports on CKLN Wednesdays between 7 and 8 pm, and Desire Armed Fridays at 11:05 am on CIUT.

CALENDAR**Thursday, June 29**

Marat/Sade. Jean-Paul Marat and the Marquis de Sade debate the merits of collective leadership and spontaneity as routes to social change in a French madhouse. Some of us feel that this film generates essential debate, although those who see it should be aware that the Marquis de Sade was a rapist and torturer, and Marat a mass murderer. Kingsway Theatre, 3030 Bloor W., 7 p.m.

Also on this date is **Imagine**, the global rock-reggae band, appearing at the Silver Dollar at 8pm.

Town Hall Meeting

The monthly anarchist town hall meeting won't occur at its regularly scheduled time of the new moon, as this coincides with a long weekend. It's unclear at press time whether the meeting will be re-scheduled or cancelled; check Now Magazine's calendar.

Prisoners Out of Isolation

Greek prisoners Yannis Petropoulos and Paraskevas Arapostathis have been allowed access to their lawyer and taken out of isolation. They have definitely been beaten but are not in a coma.

Acting on information received from other prisoners, their lawyer in Athens contacted Anarchist Black Cross groups worldwide, who initiated protests against the Greek government. The Black Cross is an international defense network for anarchist and class struggle prisoners. The prisoners were being held incommunicado after a failed escape attempt June 7. There were reports of torture and beatings. (see last issue). The ABC would like to thank anyone who sent protests to the consulate or embassy.

Metro Residents Need "Bread Not Circuses"

A Question of Priorities

Toronto's Bread Not Circuses Coalition, consisting of many Metro anti-poverty groups, is campaigning against efforts of local politicians to inflict on Toronto the 1996 Summer Olympic Games and the 2000 World Fair.

The coalition points out that these mega-projects, along with the new domed stadium and proposed ballet-opera house, will swallow billions of dollars in public and private money, diverting limited public and private attention from the critical task of ensur-

ing that all Torontonians are well-fed and well-housed, and that we have adequate childcare, a clean city, a vibrant and multi-faceted cultural life, and all the other aspects of what it means to build a "world-class city."

To the annoyance of Metro officials, the group has contacted the Bureau International des Expositions and the International Olympic Committee to voice its objections. Mayor Eggleton has called the coalition "wrongheaded" and predicted that it will not influence the IOC's decision. Coalition spokesperson Michael Shapcott has expressed the hope that knowing the games lack full community support will have an influence on the decision.

Assuming that the projects go ahead, the coalition is demanding that the public should be fully involved in their planning and development, that a fully-independent social impact assessment should be prepared for all circuses before any final approval, that corporations be required to pay at least half their windfall profits from the circuses into community needs and that any proposed public benefits from circuses, such as housing, should be constructed right away as a sign of good faith on the part of the corporate backers.

Coalition partners are waging active campaigns of their own. The Parkdale Tenants' Association is actively opposing the 1996 Olympics and Expo 2000, while BASIC Poverty Action Group is fighting the ballet-opera house.

The coalition may be contacted at: 40 Oak Street, Toronto M5A 2C6, 363-4234.

"THE CROSBIE SHOW" ISN'T FUNNY

33,500 Jobs Lost in only Six Months of Free Trade

While Trade Minister Crosbie assures the country that the free trade deal "is working quite well," the Canadian Labour Congress, using careful criteria, calculates that it has already cost Canadians 33,500 jobs. Many of these have shifted to anti-union American states or to Mexico, where five dollars a day is considered good wages. The most recent such shift has taken the jobs of 400 workers at the Bendix Safety Restraints Ltd. plant in Collingwood, a subsidiary of Michigan-based Allied Signal Inc.; the jobs will be transferred to low-wage, non-union plants in Mexico and Alabama. The base rate at Collingwood is \$10.50 an hour; in the Maquiladora free-trade zone in northern Mexico the average wage is 81 cents an hour, with no fringe benefits or environmental regulations.

In addition to job loss, the free trade deal is reducing Canada's accumulated trade surplus with the USA, which for the first four months of the deal was \$3.9 billion, down about \$900 million from the corresponding period in 1988.

Recent Canadian cutbacks in unem-

ployment insurance, regional development projects and social programs are widely attributed to U.S. pressure, as is the end of western grain transportation subsidies on grain moving east. It is also generally realized that the government's efforts to destroy Canadian culture by cutting postal subsidies for Canadian magazines and CBC funding are due to U.S. pressure. Canadian exchange rates have been raised because the Americans felt they were giving Canadian exporters an "unfair" advantage, in the process increasing the inflation level because the higher interest rates have increased housing and borrowing costs.

Shortly before election day, the pro-free trade business lobby published huge expensive ads vowing not to lobby to reduce spending on social programs. Within a month of the Tory victory, Corporate Canada began an intense lobby to reduce spending on social programs. (Toronto Star 17-6-89 sect B, 20-6-89 pA9, 21-6-89 pF3)

MUTUAL AID • MUTUAL AID • MUTUAL AID • MUTUAL AID • MUTUAL AID

Worker's Co-ops and an Alternative Economy

Nobody knows for certain how we're going to bridge the gulf between the competitive society we live in and the co-operative one we want, but there does seem to be a growing consensus that the place to start lies with our own lives. Only by learning to live co-operatively ourselves can we hope to induce others to do the same. One of the most important facets of our lives is how we earn a living, and a big step towards taking control of our own lives is to become self or co-operatively employed.

One way of doing this—not the only way, or in all circumstances the best—is to become a member of a workers' co-op, a business owned and operated by the people who work in it. Workers can start a co-op by pooling their capital to start a new business or to buy out an existing one, often the one they work for. Each worker is a member of the co-op, with one vote at general meetings to decide policy. Some co-ops, such as Toronto's Big Carrot, have employees who do not invest in the business or participate in

decision making; there is often a mechanism for such employees to become co-op members by buying a share if all members agree.

Because they make job maintenance a high priority and work mostly with local people, worker co-ops often do better than hierarchical businesses in promoting effective regional development. One expert (Robert Oakeshott in *The Case for Worker Co-ops*, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978) concludes that there are four essential conditions for a workers' cooperative venture to succeed: (1) the main thrust to get the enterprise moving must come from the potential workforce itself (2) the workforce's commitment must be supported by a meaningful capital stake (3) there must be a manager or management team with expertise at least not inferior to that which a conventional enterprise would enjoy (4) worker co-ops must work together in material supportive groupings, since in isolation they are hopelessly vulnerable.

We are still a long way from this final

condition in Ontario, where only a handful of worker co-ops now function (there are more in some other provinces, which have financial assistance programs specifically designed to help worker co-ops.) It is therefore desirable that people interested in promoting economic alternatives should divert as much of their business to the co-ops that do exist as possible. In Toronto, these include:

- A-Way Express, courier service, 465-2212
- Big Carrot, natural food store, 348 Danforth
- Blackbird Design, design & typesetting, 324-8268
- Bread and Roses credit union, 461-7882
- Community Carpentry, 466-4877
- Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada, 538-7719
- Good Riddance Pest Control, 462-2691
- Grindstone Island seminars, 968-9187
- Handy Workers Cooperative, home repairs 691-2692
- Jubilation bakery, 658-0272
- Justwork Construction Ltd., 466-9964
- Karma Food Co-op, 739 Palmerston Ave.
- Lantana Non-Profit Homes Corporation, 366-3746
- Libra co-operative information service, 368-8728
- Making It Work, T-shirt designs 971-9212
- Mountain Equipment, outdoor recreational equipment, 363-0122
- Worker Ownership Development Foundation, 417-6992.

MEDIA WATCH

How many times have you heard government ads urging us to "hire the handicapped?" Some government departments do employ people with highly visible handicaps, i.e. those blind or in wheelchairs, and thereby give the false impression that governments are leaders in hiring the disabled. People who are blind or in wheelchairs are usually able to express themselves. The general public understands these kinds of disabilities; they are "socially acceptable".

One rarely sees a person with a communication disability employed by governments, because these kinds of disabilities are not "socially" acceptable. The general public thinks these people are "drunk" or "mental cases." It does not matter if a person with communication disabilities has a university degree; governments will not give them equal employment opportunities.

The Worker Ownership Development Foundation helps new worker co-ops get started. One problem with worker co-ops is that, if they are successful and meet their members' economic needs, the members tend to forget the need for social change and adopt business ethics. Two of the co-ops listed above, Blackbird Design and Community Carpentry, have reduced this risk by unionizing with the IWW.